

R E M A R K S

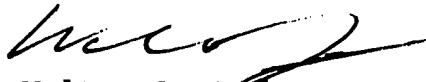
By this amendment claim 1 is amended so as more clearly to define applicant's invention in view of the art cited by the examiner. In addition, the examiner's indication that claims 5 and 6 are drawn to allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. New claims 7 and 8 correspond to original claims 5 and 6 respectively and are therefore believed allowable. Reconsideration of claims 1-8 is requested.

By the office action of May 27, 2004, the examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Turner, Koo, Li and Tyson. The cited references disclose extensions extending from a flower holder shaft which are rigid. Applicant's amended claim 1 specifically defines a flower holder which is insertable into a vase with the extensions being elongated and deformable and with the outer ends in abutment with the inner surface of the vase. The purpose of the deformable extensions is discussed in the specification beginning at line 11 on page 3. For these reasons, claim 1 is believed allowable.

Dependent claims 2-6 are believed allowable because they define further specific features of applicant's invention.

From the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 8 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Walter A. Rodgers', is written over the typed name.

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